

K.J.A. BULLETIN

October 2005



Le Shana Tova

As you teach, you learn...

-Jewish Proverb



SERVICES

Friday night at Sunset

Saturday at 9:30 AM

Rosh Hashana

October 4, 2005 at 9:30 AM

Yom Kippur

October 13, 2005 at 9:30 AM

Classes:

Every Saturday at 1 PM

HAZZANIM

Abraham Daniel

Elie Moussa

Joseph Moussa

Fred Lichaa

Marc Khedr

Victor Khedr

Avi Moussa

Robert Ovdia

ACTING HAKHAM

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Maurice Pessah '94 - '98

Joe Moussa '90 - '94

Joe Abel '86 - '90

Jacob Masliah '83 - '86

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

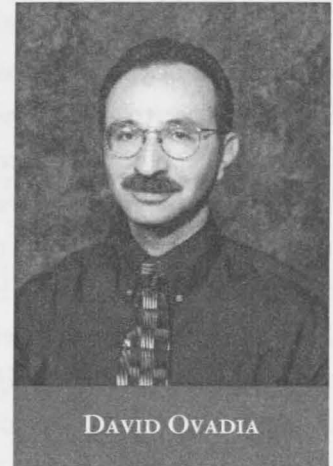
I am sure you all have notice the new layout and design of this bulletin. I would like to welcome our Layout and Design person – Nora Massuda.

I have served as President of the KJA for the last seven years, as a Vice president in 1986 to 1990 and a board member from 1990 to 1998, and will continue to participate on the board. It is time to give the job to another person, our new elected President Elie Moussa has been active with the KJA since 1983 and has a lot of knowledge and is very committed to the success of the KJA . I am planning to concentrate more of my effort on education.

Please join me to welcome our new officers:

President – Elie Moussa,
Treasurer – Marc Khedr,

Vice President – Joe Wahed,
Secretary – Abraham Massuda.



DAVID OVADIA

I also would like to welcome Joe Abel as a board member; Joe was our Past President from 1986-1990. The board will miss both Joe D. Moussa and Gina Saddik, who have recently resigned. Joe and Gina will concentrate on their families needs and will still be available to help; we all wish them the best. Joe was very active as a secretary and the chair of the education committee and Gina had made great contributions on the board. I urge everyone to give the new officers your support and be patient with our transition.

I would like to recap the major events over the past couple of years.

In March of 2002 the KJA had its first organized Passover Seder, which was attended by over 250 people.

We have seven hazanim that lead the services in addition to Joe Pessah, out of these seven; three are from our younger generation varying from ages 16 to 27. All the hazanim are dedicated on a regular basis to lead the Saturday prayer. I would like to acknowledge their efforts and dedication. Our Hazanim are listed on the back of the cover page.

We published "As it is Written: The Brief Case for Karaism." by Shawn Lichaa.

Joe Wahed, our vice president, has been actively working with JIMENA and many other Jewish organizations. On May 1, 2005, JIMENA's recently honored Joe with a special reception on May 1, 2005; please refer to his article in this bulletin for additional information.

The community is active with the participation and involvement of many members to reprint our daily prayer book and the Shabbat Prayer with large fonts and English translation. This is an enormous task

that is headed by Elie Moussa in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Alan Ovadia in the Los Angeles Area and many other members.

On January 2005 we were fortunate to have Neria visit and stay with us, please refer to the article on Neria Haroeh's.

In January 2005, Elie Moussa, Neria and I visited Los Angeles to help them start a Southern California Karaites Chapter of the KJA. We would like to thank Albert Ovadia, Walter Marzouk, and Alan Ovadia and all the members for their dedication and effort to help start the chapter. This chapter has many dedicated individual that are contributing to the KJA and are setting the example for others to continue preserving the Karaite tradition. Refer to the article in this bulletin on Southern California Karaites.

Recently several members approached the KJA board stating that they would like to have a piece of property to use for prayer. **We would like to establish a special fund for that cause and the help them flourish. Please send your donations to the KJA for this special fund.**

As part of continuing our education, we had two lectures the first lecture presented by Elie Vardi in January on "Dead Sea Scrolls". The second lecture was presented by in two parts by Henry Mourad in February and March on the Karaites. The first part of the lecture is summarized in this bulletin. Both of these lectures were attended by a large number of people with very positive feedback from the attendee's

We would like to thank Jack Ovadia with his ideas and dedication and sponsoring the phone tree, his

frequent trips from Texas, time and efforts, and with help and support to Israel.

We would like to thank several of the donors who helped raising funds for needed repairs our oldest synagogue in Israel.

There are several noteworthy items to mention on the educational accomplishment (Please refer to the list of educational material in this bulletin on page 17 that I have compiled):

Berakhot booklet – In-progress and soon to be available to all members. This small pocket booklet contains the Hebrew, the transliteration, and the English translation. This booklet will be distributed to all Karaites.

Elie Moussa, Neria Haroeh, Joe Moussa were very instrumental to creating a Booklet of Saturday Prayer Songs and a special booklet for Shevout prayer.

Special thanks to Rachel Cohen, who summarizes for us the Torah portion for the week.

Joe and Elie Moussa developed a booklet for Brit Mellah that contains the Hebrew songs and the English translation.

Barry Ovadia that started and special thanks to Fred Ovadia for putting on word the entire volume of Reshit Hokhma "The beginning of wisdom" by Rab Yossef El Gamil. This will soon be available in pdf format.

Emiel and Elie Kheder were influential to getting one of his close friends who is a professor in Egypt to translate from Arabic to English the book "the Honest Guide or the Righteous Coach".

We would like to thank Michael Ovadia, Fred Lichaa, Joe Moussa, Neria Haroeh, and Elie Moussa

for creating a CD of the Saturday Prayer to be available to anyone who wants to learn the prayer.

Jack Ovadia, has been very active with his time, effort and monetary to help preserve the KJA tradition. Refer to his article on his visit to Israel in this bulletin.

*If you would like to help in the cost of publishing and distributing these items and others, please send your donation to the KJA in support of any of the items.

There has been a lot of active movement in the world about the Karaite and many exhibits and articles in the newspapers, magazines, and books.

As Henry Mourad stated in his last lecture the following:

Between the US and Israel, the Karaim communities have reversed the ongoing decline. In Jerusalem as well as San Francisco, both communities entered an era of tremendous change. Through positive leadership, they undertook several measures to consolidate the Karaim structure and drew plans to regroup and restore their fundamental roots. Community leaders are presently exercising their enormous responsibilities and actively pursuing a methodical recovery. Driven by ambition, their thirst for restoration and preservation of traditions and belief, led them to act rapidly and to protect the vital traditions for the new generation.

We all need to be actively participants, Do Not hide that you are a Karaite. Start by learning about your Karaite tradition, observing them, and pass it on to your children and grand children. Our late first President Jacob Masliah, Joe Pessah and Joe Wahed, have encouraged every member not be afraid and let everyone know that you are a Karaite Jew.

We urge everyone to start taking the first step by sending us your e-mail address and any input you have or by writing us a letter. The e-mail addresses will be used to establish a database and a quick means to disseminate information. **Please take that first step now** sending us your e-mail address and any other information about yourself and how you can help.

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our community who helped and supported the KJA during the past several years and may God bless you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Shana Tovah, Shalom

David Ovadia

P.S. Every time we need to issue the bulletin we tend to struggle due to the lack of article and people not sending us information in a timely manner. I personally had to request from several people to send article, pictures, announcement etc. I urge every member to try to help us with the next bulletin. We will try to issue bulletin semi-annually, one before Pessah and one before our high holiday. Please send your information to the editor or any board members.

Thank you to everyone, that helped make this a special and enjoyable bulletin.

MY TRIP TO ISRAEL

By: Jack Ovadia

THE PURPOSE OF MY TRIP WAS TO TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KARAITE COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL AND TO see what I may be able to do to help the Karaites preserve their heritage. I wanted to see what could be done to resolve the split between the adherents to the different calendars of Rav Hayim and Rav Magdi Shmuel. I also wanted to discuss our educational needs and their impact on our future. Finally, I wanted to encourage education and learning in order to come spiritually closer to God.

While there, I attended services every morning and evening in Ashdod. After Shabbat, I began to develop a relationship with Rav Eliyahu Dabbah, who, to a certain degree, answered many of my questions related to the above issues.

I had an opportunity to go to Ramleh and attended a meeting in which most of the Karaite Rabbis in Israel attended. The few Rabbis who could not attend the meeting voted by proxy. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss when Passover should be celebrated...on its original calendar date or a month earlier, due to the fact that the wheat had ripened earlier than expected. This was due to the rain and the unseasonably warm weather that followed. Three samples of ripened wheat in clear plastic bags were brought to the meeting as evidence that the wheat had already ripened. According to the Torah, Passover should be celebrated on the month in which the wheat ripens. After careful consideration and debate, the majority of the Rabbis voted to keep the calendar as is for many reasons, including the very short notice (less than 10 days) and the unavailability of matzah in the stores.

Back in Ashdod, I attended a special meeting in which Avraham Cohen Aslan, president of the Board, Magdi Tahan, secretary, Yona Firuz, treasurer, and Rav Eliyahu Dabbah were present. We discussed all of the topics mentioned above in the purpose of my trip. As I was talking with Rav Eliyahu Dabbah after the meeting, he asked me if I would like to speak to the congregation in Ashdod during the Sabbath services. I agreed; however, I did not know how I was going to accomplish this task. I have never spoken in front of an audience before and always dreaded the thought of having to do so. I just trusted G-d to be with me. When I went to Jerusalem and visited the Wailing Wall, I prayed to G-d to help me with my mission and to be with me during my speech on Shabbat.

After my visit to the Wailing Wall, I met with Rav Moshe Dabbah, brother of Rav Eliyahu Dabbah, who showed me the repairs that the Jerusalem synagogue needed, including the replacement of all the waterlines from galvanized piping to plastic.

As Saturday came, I spoke in front of an audience of approximately 125 people without the slightest apprehension. It was like a miracle. I spoke in Arabic and Rav Eliyahu Dabbah translated to Hebrew whenever I paused. Approximately over half the audience knew Arabic, and the remainder knew a little or none. I explained the purpose of my mission, the importance of uniting and to have only one calendar rather than the two different ones that we currently have. Approximately 80% of Karaites in

Israel celebrate the holidays with the nation of Israel because of the hardship involved in doing otherwise, and the remainder are split and follow the 2 different calendars, as mentioned above. I also spoke about the need for learning, and my effort to help raise funds to educate some Karaite scholars. I also spoke about our need to have better communication and links with the Karaites in Israel. Most importantly, I spoke of the importance of coming spiritually closer to G-d. Everybody listened eagerly and very attentively, as if it was a message they were yearning to hear.

After my speech Jack Levy introduced me to his son Marc, who was born in the U.S. and moved to Israel when he was ten years old. Marc is one of eight Hazzanim who graduated a couple of years ago and was taught by the late Rav Havez. He is fluent in Hebrew and English and is willing to help us with translations and communications with Israel. I just e-Mailed him a letter to translate and send to all the Rav's in Israel stressing the importance once again of resolving the calendar controversy when they meet again to discuss it.

Unfortunately, Rav Hayim Levy was ill during my stay in Israel. I only had a short opportunity to speak with him. Among my questions to him, was "How can we, the Karaite in the U.S., observe the Sabbath and go to services when the synagogue is miles away?" His answer was, "According to Rav Tobia Levy in Egypt, it is better to drive on the Sabbath and go to services than not go at all, as long as you drive and don't stop on the way coming or going to accomplish other tasks." Please try to observe the Sabbath. I found great peace when I stopped doing shopping, laundry, or other tasks on Saturdays. Reserve that day for rest, going to services, prayer, studying, and teaching the Torah to your children. Learn the translation of our prayers from Hebrew to English and spend some quality

time with your family. Come spiritually closer to G-d and experience great peace. Spirituality will give you the strength to endure hardship. Keep G-d in your heart and mind all the time...not just when you are in trouble.

The High Holidays are around the corner, and if you would like to do a mitzvah beforehand, consider donating to the Education Fund for our future scholars in Israel; to the building of the second Karaite synagogue in Ashdod; to the repairs of the Jerusalem synagogue; or to any other worthy cause. You may send your contributions to the KJA with a notation as to which cause it is for, and your contributions will be sent to Israel. Also, if you have any old Karaite articles, documents, or prayer books that date back to the mid- 1800's or earlier, they are needed for the Karaite museum in Ashdod. Please contact me for more details.

I would like to thank David Ovadia and Elie Moussa, president and treasurer of the KJA, respectively, for all their time, contributions, and hard work during the past several years to the KJA. I would also like to thank Fred Ovadia for all the work he has done transliterating the Saturday Hebrew prayers to help whomever can't read Hebrew to pray in Hebrew. Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the KJA Board, Rav Joe Pessah, and everybody in the community who has made monetary or time contributions to the KJA. Let us all pitch in to help our community and, in doing so, come spiritually closer to G-d and find true peace.

Wishing all of you a happy new year and happy holidays to follow...SHANAH TOVAH.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA KARAITES ESTABLISH KJA CHAPTER

*By: Audria J. Gazzar-Cohen
David S. Cohen*

IN JANUARY 2005, THE KARAITE JEWS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHED A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE KJA. Since that time, the group of approximately 15 families has been meeting on a monthly basis in an effort to organize and unify the Southern California community.

KJA President David Ovadia and Treasurer Elie Moussa have devoted a considerable amount of time and energy with the new group. At their suggestion, the local chapter created a mission statement, established goals, and selected a Board of Directors.

The first Board of Directors is comprised of the following individuals:

Riri Carmona	Ray Marzouk	Fred Ovadia
Albert Gazzar	Walter Marzouk	Ben Pessah
Audria Gazzar-Cohen	Neville Marzwell	Mira Pessah
Joyce Marzouk	Sylvia Menashe	

The Board of Directors established Communication, Education, Religion, Social, and Ways & Means Committees. Members were assigned to the appropriate committee according to needs, interests, and strengths.

On the first Shabbat of each month, members meet at various host homes. Each meeting begins with a morning prayer and Torah reading led by Roger Lisha. After the services have concluded, a designated speaker lectures about such timely topics as Kariate history, holidays, the weekly torah reading, and Karaite customs. Additionally, Fred Ovadia offers Hebrew classes and has generated a beginning Hebrew book (draft) as well as resources for prayers, songs, and English transliteration of the Hebrew text. The day continues with food, games and fellowship enjoyed by one and all.

Visitors are always welcome. If anyone is interested in attending one of our events, or would like more information about the newest KJA chapter, please contact Alan or Feryal Ovadia at FEOvadia@yahoo.com

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL PARTICIPATES IN COMPARATIVE JUDAISM COURSE

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL, HOME TO THE BAY AREA'S KARAITE COMMUNITY, WAS ONE OF eleven congregations that participated in a comparative Judaism course on January 18, 2005. The course was sponsored by the following organizations: The Albert L. Schultz Jewish Community Center, Lehrhaus Judaica: The Adult School for Jewish Studies, and New Bridges to Jewish Community. Participating congregations ran the gamut from Orthodox to Reconstructionist and gave attendees a glimpse into the depth and breadth of Jewish ideology and practice.

The course was hosted weekly at a different congregation location from October 26-December 14, 2004 and January 11-25, 2005. Each session was two hours and by the congregations' designated representatives. This was followed by an invitation to attend Shabbat services at each location on the following Saturday.

The session at Temple B'nai Israel was led by Henry Mourad, who reviewed Karaite history; Joe Moussa and Neria Haroeh covered prayers and books; and Joe Pessah, who ended with Karaite culture and practice. Approximately 8-10 students made the trek to Daly City for the course, with about 5 returning to participate in the weekly Shabbat service. The congregation made a strong showing at the class, numbering nearly 30, and an equally strong showing for the Shabbat service. The response from the students was overwhelmingly positive. The class discussion was animated and engaging, and they were very impressed by the depth of the history and breadth of the culture of the Karaites.

THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES



ON MAY 1, 2005, JIMENA (JEWS INDIGENOUS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA) SPONSORED A SPECIAL reception at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center honoring its founder, Joe Wahed and celebrating the release of the David Project's insightful documentary, "The Forgotten Refugees." JIMENA's mission is to raise awareness about the expulsion of nearly one million Jews in nine Arab countries (and Muslim Iran).

Over 400 people were in attendance and viewed the testimonies of Jews from Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and elsewhere that also included depictions of the historical timeline of how Jews were expelled from these countries.

Several friends and supporters from the Karaite and greater Bay Area Jewish communities were on hand for the event, and everyone was extremely moved by the film and the panel discussion that followed.

NERIAH HAROEH'S VISIT TO THE US

By: David Ovadia

Neria first contacted the Bay Area KJA community when he was in the Midwest visiting a friend. He called and stated that he was a Karaite from Israel and would like to visit our Karaite temple. On a Friday night in mid-January, he arrived safely at our temple. On Saturday during the Shabbat service break, he expressed his interest in staying in the US for a few months to Sarine Moussa. Sarine immediately brought this to my attention, and we began discussing the potentially great opportunity that this presented. After more elaborate discussion and an emergency board meeting, the decision was made to offer him to a job as an educator for a few months. Neria spent most of his stay over Elie and Sarine Moussa and Joe and Remy Pessah, and the entire community is grateful to them for the generosity they showed in opening up their homes.

Neria was in the San Francisco Bay area from mid-January 2005 to early April. During his stay, he acted in the capacity as an educator in the following areas:

Teaching Hebrew to adults ranging in ages from 18 to 85. Teaching the Torah, including the weekly Parashat, or interpretation of the Torah portion, and held discussions on Saturdays.

Traveling to the Los Angeles community twice for a duration of 5 days each time. He met with the community members and performed similar tasks as listed above. He also contributed greatly to the production of a CD and booklet of Shabbat prayers and songs, which he used to help educate his students.

Coordinating with our Acting Rav and other Rabbis in Israel to make a booklet of selected berakhot for different occasions. The booklet is near its final stages of editing, and we hope to send it out for printing and make it available to the community in the near future.

Coordinating visitors to the synagogue and responding to their questions on the Jewish faith.

Neria worked under the guidance of Elie Moussa, Joe Pessah, Joe Moussa, and myself. The San Francisco Bay Area community has had several visiting Rabbis/scholars in the past, but the community benefited from Neria the most because he spoke English and

Arabic well enough for everyone to understand and communicate well with him. Neria was always self-motivated and worked hard to help the community achieve its educational and cultural goals. He always made himself available to anyone who wanted to learn. During his stay, he established himself as a credible and knowledgeable person with respect to Jewish faith, prayer, and cultural values. Jack Ovadia made a special trip from Texas in order to consult with him.

Neria's visit was a catalyst to our communities to help move forward some key initiatives. The entire community from the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles wish him the best of luck and success in the future and are very confident that he will excel in whatever venture he pursues. We hope that Neria will be able to visit the U.S. again in the future.

Neria (Massouda) Haroeh is 22 years old, born in Yavne Israel. At the age of three his family moved to Moshav Matsliach, near Ramla, where his father was born. His father changed the family name to Haroeh after he found an old family tree that traced the original family name of Haroeh. Neria grandfather was Emmanuel Massouda, the first Chief Karaite Hacham of Israel who lived in Moshav Matsliach since he immigrated to Israel in 1949. Neria learning of the Karaite traditions was passed down from his grandfather to his father and from Rabbi David Elisha in Moshav Israel.

Before visiting the United States Neria had just completed his three years term in the Army. Neria has been accepted to several top colleges in Israel and will be starting college in the fall

NERIAH HAROEH'S GOODBYE



THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAVE BEEN A RICH AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE. I was fortunate to be here, to teach and to learn. It is hard to believe that the time has passed so quickly.

You have welcomed me into your homes, shared personal stories and extended your hand to me in many ways – just as true family do. It has become obvious to me that people here have good hearts and good values.

People will know, I am sure; that I have always given my best in the time that I have been here. I hope that you will enjoy the fruits of what I planted here- this is not much, but it is in your hands to make something from it.

I want to say “Thank you” to everyone involved in the KJA. Thank you also to my home stays families who welcomed me so warmly into their homes and hearts. I sincerely appreciated the warmth and kindness. It is always difficult to say goodbye, but I have to say, I can't stay here any longer, so goodbye.

God bless you all.

Neria's Suggestions

The community is small and the people are spread out. In order to keep the tradition and grow, you have to make more efforts than others have to, you don't have a choice.

You must advertise what you do and keep in touch with everyone in the community.

You need to have a full Mailing List with e-mails and phone numbers and details on each person in the community.

Use the phone tree, as much as possible.

You have good social relations. This is good for you.

Expand on community events and both religious and non-religious

Revitalize the Summer Camp, This is very important for the new generation and to keep in touch with Karaites from outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

Expand your learning program. Continue with the lessons and

lectures after the prayer on Shabbat. Utilize recording and CD and the Web.

Have members of the community make presentation on a rotating basis.

Encourage people to come to the synagogue.

Print transliteration of the prayer for people to follow and participate.

Add some Shabbat songs before the end of the prayer.

Announcements

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE WELCOMED THESE BUNDLES OF JOY INTO THE WORLD:

Ethan Moussa, son of Ami and Jacob, born September 12, 2004

Mazal Shoshana Allen, daughter of Robert and Nechama Allen, born September 5, 2004

Evette Laila Moussa, daughter of Davina and Joe D., born January 4, 2005

Jacob Rayan Licha, son of Beth and Jeffery, born Saturday September 17, 2005

WE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ON HAVING COMPLETED THEIR B'NAI MITZVOT:



Nathan Ariel Nounou, son of Paul and Jacqueline Nounou and Grandson of Elie Nounou, February 12, 2005

Derek Maleh, son of David and Debbie Maleh, April 9, 2005 *(photo left)*

Joe Massuda, son of David and Mona Massuda, May 7, 2005

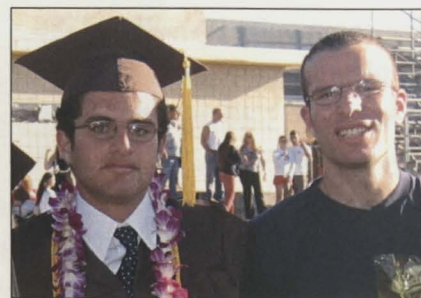
Daniel Joseph Pessah, son of Albert and Sylvia Pessah, May 28, 2005

Solange Marsaa, daughter of Sara and Jean-Louis Marsaa, August 6, 2005

BEST WISHES TO OUR GRADUATES...

Aaron Ovadia, son of Fred and Esther Ovadia graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelors of Science degree in Bioengineering and is pursuing medical school. *(photo right - on right)*

Jeremy Ovadia, son of Fred and Esther Ovadia graduated from West High School in Torrance, CA. He received a regional scholarship and will be attending University of California, Irvine. His declared major is mathematics. *(photo right - on left)*



Michelle Khedr, daughter of David and Odette Khedr, graduated from high school with honors in Santa Monica, June 23, 2005. *(photo left)*

Rachel Moussa, daughter of Joe and Fifi Moussa, graduated from high school and will be attending UC Davis

Aaron Pessah, son of Maurice and Lillian Pessah graduated from high school and will be attending De Anza College, where he will be joining the swim team

Ronit Ovadia, daughter of Joe and Rachel Ovadia, graduated with a B.A. in Human Biology from Scripps College, located in Claremont, California. She will be attending Northwestern University, where she will pursue a M.S. in Genetic Counseling. Ronit is very involved with the National Federation of the Blind, the largest consumer organization of blind people working together to change what it means to be blind in this country. Ronit has served in many capacities for the organization, including serving as president of the California Association of Blind Students and secretary of the National Association of Blind Students.

David Cohen graduated from California Western School of Law with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in September of 2004. He passed the California Bar Examination in February 2005.

Three cheers to...David Cohen, husband of Audria Cohen, who passed the CA Bar Exam...Great job!!!

LOTS OF LOVE TO OUR NEWLYWEDS...



Jesse and Jennifer Marzouk, December 4, 2004

David Bridgman and Lynsy Rose, May 29, 2005

Colette Bridgman and Arsalan Niazmand, August 6, 2005

David Pessah and Rachely Yehezkel, August 17, 2005 (*photo left*)

Benjamin Levy and Shannon Green, September 4, 2005

DECEMBER 2004 PHOTO OF KARAITE VACATIONER AT VALLARTA MEXICO



Front sitting at center – *Sarina Pessah & Rose El Kodsí.*

From left to right – *Walter & Joyce Marzouk, Albert & Aimie Gazzar, Martin & Celie Mourad, Isaac & Magda Ovadia, Mourad & Aimie Lichaa, Joseph Lichaa, Aimie Wahed Claire Marzouk, Marc & Bella Khedr, Emiel Kheder, Nelly Scott, Albert Farag, Alan & Fereyal Ovadia, Fouzi & Denise Lichaa, Joe & Amira Abel, Marie Lisha, Esther Lichaa.*

NEXT TO THE WAILING WALL...



Photo from right to left:
Elana Kadar,
Albert Khedr,
Marc Khedr,
Bella Isabel Khedr,
Bella Khedr
& Mourad Kadar

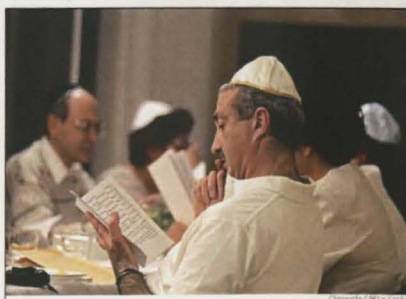
A KARAITE SEDER FEATURED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

THE MAY 6, 2005 EDITION OF SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE FEATURED A BEAUTIFULLY COMPOSED ARTICLE ON THE Karaites. A reporter was at the home of Elie and Sarine Moussa observing the traditional large gathering, as they sat down to celebrate the Passover Seder at the home of Elie and Sarine Moussa.



Above: Sara and Elie Moussa (standing left) and their daughter-in-law Sallie, grandson Joshua, and son Morris (seated) pose for a photograph during the seder. *Chronicle photo by Mike Kepka*

Below: Zaki Elkodsi reads from the Haggadah during the seder on the first night of Passover. The Bay Area has the nation's largest community of Karaites, a sect of nonrabbinical Jews from Egypt. *Chronicle photo by Mike Kepka*



Above: Joseph Abdel Wahed leads a prayer during the seder at the home of Sara and Elie Moussa in San Carlos. *Chronicle photo by Mike Kepka*

To view the article and photos, go to:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article?f=c/a/2005/05/06/PNGVBCGKAIr.DTL&hw=Karaites&sn=001&sc=1000>

KARAITE TEMPLE IN ASHDOD

PROPOSED BUILDING OF A SECOND KARAITE SYNAGOGUE IN ASHDOD

THE BUILDING INCLUDES TWO
FLOORS AND A BASEMENT:

GROUND FLOOR:

1. Entrance Area
2. Main Entrance for Holidays
- Side Entrance (Day use)
3. Taking off Shoe Room
4. Candle-Lighting Room
5. Prayer Hall
6. Sanctuary

FIRST FLOOR:

1. Taking off Shoe Corner
2. Balcony
3. Rabbi's Chamber
4. Torah Study Room
5. Women's Gallery

FIRST FLOOR:

1. Access for Handicapped
2. Kitchen
3. Study, Lecture and
Special Event Hall

Where to send your donation:

KJA, 1575 Annie Street

Daly City, CA, 94015

The money collected will be sent
directly to Ashdod, Israel



FUNDING: The cost for the building is estimated at \$700,000, including furniture and equipment, in order to meet the requirements of both holiness and elegance.

AN APPEAL FOR DONATION

To all community members, wherever they are, and the remainder of the Karaite people, older and younger, and all our generous brothers of Israel: Praise the Lord, and assist in the foundation of this synagogue, which is your glory. Any contribution, large or small, is blessed and appreciated, and let us encourage each other to donate, for charity has many virtues, and as our Sages said, it is rewarded - "And Zion will be redeemed in charity." Those who encourage others to donate are doubly rewarded, so let us all donate and encourage others to do so, in order to be rewarded twice as much. Therefore, it is our duty to turn to each other and donate for this holy cause, and then we shall have the right to bless and praise the almighty G-d in this house-warming celebration, until G-d blesses us in witnessing the building of Zion and Jerusalem, and let us watch the glory of G-d and his third temple.

Blessed are those who pursue justice and give to charity always.

Rabbi Haim Ben Yitshak Halevi

HOLIDAY CALENDER 05-2006

Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah)	Tuesday	October	4- 2005
Yom Kippur Eve	Wednesday	October	12- 2005
Yom Kippur	Thursday	October	13- 2005
Sukkot	Tuesday	October	18- 2005
Simhat Torah	Tuesday	October	25- 2005
Fast of Gadalia (Shevit)	Friday	October	28- 2005
Fast of 10th (Tevet)	Tuesday	January	10- 2006
Purim (First day)	Tuesday	March	14- 2006
Purim(Second day)	Wednesday	March	15- 2006
Passover Eve	Wednesday	April	12- 2006
Passover (First day)	Thursday	April	13- 2006
Yom Hanaphat Haomer	Sunday	April	16- 2006
Passover (Last day) Shebii Asereth	Wednesday	April	19- 2006
Memorial Day (Holocaust)	Tuesday	April	25- 2006
Independence Day	Wednesday	May	3- 2006
Shavuot	Sunday	June	4- 2006
Fast of the 9th Of Tammuz	Wednesday	July	5- 2006
Fast of the 7th Of AV (Eykha)	Tuesday	August	1- 2006
Fast of the 10th Of AV (Eykha)	Friday	August	4- 2006

Notes:

1. Passover for 7 days • 2. Shavuot the 7th Sunday from Passover Sunday
3. Eykha begins Thursday July 6, 2006 • 4. Eykha end Friday August 4/2006.

If you have any question call or e-mail:

Elie Moussa • 650-591-6183 • eliemoussa@sbcglobal.net

EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A collection of the Saturday Prayer Songs and Erev Shabbat Kidush and Songs Booklet and CD

Songs led by Maurice El-Kodsi, Victor Cohen, Jacob Pessah, Abraham Daniel, Joseph Moussa, Elie Moussa, Joe Pessah & Rav Yossef El-Gamil

Saturday Prayer CD recording of Fred Lichaa, Joseph Moussa, and Neria Haroeh.

This project was professionally recorded with the help of Michael Ovadia

Shevout • Special Prayer Booklet *by Elie Moussa*

Pessah • Traditional booklet from Egypt, including the English translation.

Tapes are also available

Revised version edited by Joe Pessah with a CD

Video of the French Recording

Pamphlet on the Karaite Codices • *Compiled by Mourad El-Kodsi*

Brit Melah booklet with all the Hebrew songs according the Karaite customs and the English translation. • *by Joseph and Elie Moussa*

“As it is written” • *by Shawn Lichaa*

Tahorat Hamishpaha • *by Rabbi Haim Levy*

This is a great collection and a good learning tool for everyone to continue to pass on the Karaite tradition.

This is a great CD to start learning the Karaite prayer. Good for any person who wants to be Bar Mitzvah.

This booklet provide the entire prayer including the Torah in one boolet without jumping from page to page.

This version was used in the large Cedar held in the San Francisco Bay area in the year 2002.

No duplication

Limited copies are available

This is a wonderfull collection for all new parents for Brit Melah.

This was distributed to all Karaites

Available in PDF format and it is a must for all people getting married.

MORE PRODUCTS TO COME IN 2006

Tefilat Yahid • Beginning Hebrew Book • Sefer Berachot • Collection of Prayer Tapes
Reshit Hockhma - “The Beginning of Wisdom • “The Honest Guide” or “Righteous Coach”

PRAYER TRANSLATION: ESSA

THERE ARE FIVE KEDOSHOT IN THE SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER, ALL OF WHICH WERE WRITTEN BY RABBIS. Essa is the second Kedosha of our Saturday morning prayer service. It is found on the bottom of page 229 of our prayer book (1) Alef and on page 44 of the abbreviated Shabbat prayer book used at Congregation B'nai Israel at Daly City, California.

I will fetch my knowledge from far away | I will narrate the righteousness of my God and my redeemer:
In six days He completed all work, - my king and my shepherd:

And God blessed the seventh day:

Miraculous are all HIS acts, and HIS glory covered the heavens (*last phrase - Habakkuk 3:3*):

May He be uplifted and exalted, the high and the exalted:

He Who sanctify this day, from all which have been done:

From all His work which He had made:

The beginning of His word is Truth, hidden in the assembly:

He has chosen our nation, as a heritage to HIM from the world

He commanded twice as much bread to prepare for them (the manna):

To Observe the Shabbat throughout the ages as a covenant for all time:

He left as Inheritance a testimony (the Shabbat), to the sons of Jacob for their glory:

A Delightful day, holy day; a day of honor and respect:

Indeed they will tell His righteousness when they are gathering:

Let them give thanks unto HaShem for His mercy, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy name; the upright shall dwell in Thy presence:

So shall the heavens praise Thy wonders, O HaShem, Thy faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones:

He sent redemption to His people; He commanded His covenant for all time; His name is Holy and awesome. (*Psalms 111:9*)

Cry out and shout, you inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy one of Israel in your midst (*Isaiah 12:6*)

Our Redeemer - LORD of Hosts is His name - is the Holy One of Israel. (*Isaiah 47:4*)

This version was translated by Fred Ovadia from Torrance, CA and represents the first time that someone has tried to translate it to English. We thank Fred for the time and effort he put into preparing this translation and hope to have other translations of Kedoshot in future editions of the Bulletin. *Thanks to Neria Haroeb's who reviewed and made corrections to the translation and thank to Joe Pessah for doing the final review.*

אֲשָׁא לְמַרְחוֹק דַּעִי: אֶתְנֶה | צְדָקוֹת אֱלִי וּמוֹשִׁיעַי:
בְּשֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים כָּלָה כָּל | מַלְכֵי וְדַעִי:
וַיִּבְרָךְ אֱלֹהִים | אֶת־יּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי. *
הַפְּלִיא כָּל פֶּעַל | וְהוֹדוּ שָׁמַיִם כָּסָה:
יִתְעַלָּה וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂה | הָרָם וְהַנָּשָׂא:
הַמְקוֹדֵשׁ זֶה הַיּוֹם | מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשֶׂה:
מִכָּל־מְלָאכָתּוֹ | אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. *
רֹאשׁ דְּבָרוֹ אֱמֶת | בְּסוֹד נֶעְלָם:
הָעַם בָּחַר | לְנַחֲלָה לּוֹ מֵעוֹלָם:
צִוָּה לֶחֶם מִשְׁנֶה לְהַכִּין בְּשָׁבִילָם:
לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־הַשְּׁבֶט | לְדָרְתָם בְּרִית עוֹלָם. *
נָחַל עֲדוּת | לְבָנֵי יַעֲקֹב לְהוֹדֵם:
יוֹם עֲנָג יוֹם קוֹדֵשׁ | יוֹם מְכַבֵּד לְכְבוֹדָם:
אָכַן יִגִּידוּ צְדָקָתּוֹ | בְּהוֹעֲדָם:
יִוְדּוּ לִיהְנֶה חֲסֵדּוֹ | וְנִפְלְאוֹתָיו לְבָנֵי אָדָם. *
אֶךְ צְדִיקִים יוֹדּוּ לְשִׁמְךָ | יִשְׁבּוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ:
וַיִּוְדּוּ שָׁמַיִם פְּלִאָתְךָ יְהוָה | אֶף־אֱמוּנָתְךָ בְּקִהְלֵךְ קְדוֹשִׁים:
פְּדוּת שְׁלַח לְעַמּוֹ | צִוָּה לְעוֹלָם בְּרִיתּוֹ | קְדוֹשׁ וְנוֹרָא שְׁמוֹ:
צִהְלִי וְרַנִּי יוֹשֶׁבֶת צִיּוֹן | כִּי־גָדוֹל בְּקִרְבְּךָ קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
גִּאֲלָנוּ יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ | קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

WHO ARE THE KARAIM JEWS? (PART I)

By: Henry Mourad

BEFORE WE CAN ADDRESS THIS QUESTION, WE MUST SAY THAT THEIR EXISTENCE AS A BRANCH OF JUDAISM WOULD not have been realized had not Abraham, the father of the believers, embraced monotheism. His unique vision formed the seed of the Judaic movement, and of course, it flourished to its full dimension with the revelations later bestowed on Moses.

The Karaim are a little-known Jewish group. We believe that they existed as far back as the days of the second temple in Jerusalem. They were scholars, many of simple backgrounds, who taught among the people and strongly believed that the Torah was subject to individual interpretations—after rigorous study—and therefore was open to discussions and analysis.

During the second temple of Jerusalem, three distinct groups dominated the religious life in Jerusalem:

1. The Sadducees - They were rich and powerful, born to priestly families and dominated the religious aspects of Jewish life in Judea.
2. The Pharisees - They were scholars, doctors of the law and settled civil disputes among the inhabitants based on the teachings of the Torah.
3. The Essenes - They were ascetic people who rejected the pleasures of life and thus did not marry. They consecrated their life to the study of the Torah.

Yet, a fourth group emerged during the same period, they were similar to the Essenes in their ascetic tendencies with the exception that they intermarried among their groups. It is our belief that they were the ancient Karaim.

HISTORICAL EXISTANCE

The first recorded historical documentation of the group's existence was tied to the ancient Essenes during the period of the second temple around 70 CE. Like their Essenes counterpart, this particular group split from the ruling priesthood in Jerusalem, for they considered it to be tainted, hence they chose to seclude among themselves near the Qumran Mountains. However, they shared few ways of life with the Essenes, other than the plain fact that their religious beliefs dominated their lives without hindering their daily cultivation of the land, and their resilient and ardent patriotism against the Romans.

This ancient branch of Judaism—fathers of the Karaim of today—subsequent chronological citation was well established with the discovery of the Qumran caves and the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was also believed that they fled the mountains during the brutal Roman massacres of the Jews in Judea and their relentless pursuit afterwards. In fleeing their secure strongholds in the mountains, they dispersed not only in the remote parts of Judea but outside the Holy land as well.

With the destruction of the Temple around 70 CE, the Sadducees lost their “raison d'être” so to speak

and disappeared from the scene. The Pharisees who were liberals in their belief continued to flourish because they tolerated the existence of the Romans. They lived comfortably in Judea and notably in Jerusalem. With the passage of time the Essenes perished because of their celibate attitudes. As for the ancient Karaim, while they continued to exist in the Diaspora, they envied the Pharisees for their life in the Holy land. With the sudden weakening of the Karaim position, and the continual increasing influence of the Pharisees, the Karaim embraced comparatively more liberal attitudes regarding their daily life, while strongly abiding to the four important principles of worship, repentance, charity, and study. Study dominated the greater part of their life, for they strongly believed in the words of Isaiah, that in the constant study of the Torah, the Messiah will come and they would be restored once again in Judea.

In the passage of years, they developed expertise in translating the Holy Scriptures and developed the hidden meaning within the Bible. They became so well versed in the Torah that they were given the name "Karaim". Their name was established from the word "Kara" in Hebrew, meaning to read or to study in meticulous detail, and hence they were referred to as the readers of the Holy Scriptures.

EMERGENCE OF THE MODERN KARAIM

Subsequently, the Ananites flourished in the eight century in the current era through the expansive literary work of David Ben Anan. Anan embraced the ascetic beliefs and traditions of the Karaim group which existed in Mesopotamia and advocated the reliance on the three pillars of Karaim beliefs: The written law, the inference of the text, and the yoke of inheritance.

Anan and his closest collaborators left Mesopotamia and established themselves in

Jerusalem, the prestigious center of Judaism and built a sanctuary for learning and worship there. It was there that the community expanded and because of their simple and ascetic life, they were referred to as "Mourners."

Attracted by this spiritual center, students came from everywhere to Jerusalem to learn and pray according to the Karaim customs. Subsequently, they returned to their countries and conducted intense missionary activities.

However, modern Karaim (known also as Karaites) practices differ in many respects from the days of old. Modern life is quite evident in their homes and in their physical appearance, in contrast to the sheltered and ascetic tendencies of their older counterparts. Another formidable difference was their attitude towards illness, where the ancient Karaim strongly believed in the self-healing process, and that God was the Ultimate Healer. Also, they strongly believed that in order to guide humanity towards salvation, God revealed the Holy Scriptures, and without divine inspiration, they affirmed that no one could grasp and interpret the true meanings of the Holy Scriptures. Equally, deciphering the true essence of the Torah would only occur with true holiness. Additionally, the old Karaim strongly believed in the resurrection of the dead and the existence of Angels as instrument helpers of the Almighty.

The modern Karaim retained several ideas and traditions from their ancestors. The dominant thought focused on the Talmudic teachings, for they robustly believe that the Holy Scriptures consisting of the TANAKH (written Bible)—Torah, Prophets (*Nevim*), and Chronicles (*Ketuvim*), and their prayers throughout the year is mainly composed of excerpts of the TANAKH—is the one and only divine Scriptures, where in contrast, the Talmudic schooling (oral law) encompass

mostly deep religious interpretations, discussions (Midrash) of the original text, a Judaic way of life, all dictated by many great rabbis through several centuries. Accordingly, the Karaim do not view the Talmud as a divine document, but merely a source of tradition, inspiration, diverse discussions and an oasis of learning.

Therefore, a powerful conceptual belief emerged among the Karaim in the fundamental formation of one's independent thoughts, and that one should interpret the Torah according to one's own comprehension, uninfluenced by religious leaders. Thus, the concept strongly promoted self-study and the continual pursuit of knowledge. Also, in admitting a diversity of interpretations, the Karaim opened the way to extreme individuality, coupled with a great respect for tradition.

KARAIM CONTRIBUTIONS

Because one of the principle foundations of the Karaim beliefs imposes the task of searching for the truth without relying on anyone else's authority, it greatly encouraged self-study and contributed to literary progress.

Total freedom prevailed, devoid of any external influence from Rabbis, in translating the Holy Scriptures. However, the one sacred rule that they rigidly followed was to impose the strict use of the original Torah text. This principle greatly encouraged the appearance of a multitude of religious scholars, which led to the emergence of the Massoretes. Those were scholars who worked diligently to fix the vocalization rules of the Holy Text. The greatest Massoretes contributions were attributed to the Ben Asher family.

The Karaim Massoretes in their relentless pursuit of Torah authenticity defined precisely the rules of grammar. They derived it from the application of the text of the Bible. The Massoretes were valued

as specialists in the work they accomplished as they were accepted unanimously throughout the world. In addition, they were also philosophers, legal authors and lexicographer. The world is indebted to them for they helped preserve not only the Torah but also the Hebrew language.

The Ben Asher family represented this distinguished authority for almost a thousand years. Codex Cairensis (referring to its long existence for centuries in the Ben Ezra Synagogue of Cairo) is a manuscript of the complete Torah including the book of Prophets, written and vocalized by Moses Ben Asher in 896 CE. This splendid work has remained in the hands of the Karaim Jews of Cairo until 1998 when the Egyptian government seized it (under the scientific pretense of preservation) and declared it as a historical document. Sadly, this great historical document was scorched in the outer edges from a fire that erupted in the Synagogue where it resided. Fortunately however, it was smuggled out of Egypt and now it resides in the Jerusalem Museum.

Their most notable work however was the Codex Alepenses (Stolen around the 13th century from the Karaim of Iraq and was later discovered in the city of Aleppo) was actually generated by Aaron Ben Asher, who meticulously wrote it and vocalized it. It is a calligraphic manuscript dating back to the 10th century and contains the complete text of the Bible. It was badly mutilated in 1947 and was stripped of a sizable number of its leaves, but thankfully, it now also resides in Jerusalem.

Part two will be in the next future bulletin. Henry Mourad presented this subject in a two lectures given on Saturdays after prayer at our congregation B'nai Israel. Part two will include the following:

PRINCIPLES, IDEOLOGY AND BELIEFS OF KARAISM
DECIMATION OF THE KARAISM
THE DECLINE
REVIVAL OF THE HERITAGE

IN MEMORIUM

Gracia David Dabbah (California)

Wife of Emil Kheder, Mother of Elie, Marc, David, Joe Kheder and Fortune Saddik

Zaki Lichaa (Maryland)

Wife of Aziza Lichaa and father of Nancy Adamopolus and Farrah Dena Lichaa

Gad Zakaria Rahmin (New York)

Husband of Louise Zakaria

Farag Moussa El Kodsi (New York)

Husband of Marcel El Kodsi

Zaki Moussa El Kodsi (Israel)

Lily Towfic Lichaa (California)

Wife of Zaki Jacob

Isaac Yeshua Saleh (Israel)

Nelly Yacob Massuda (Rhode Island)

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